

perform has walls and has a shape as close as possible to a predetermined final form of the apparatus.

Please add the following new claim:

42. --(New) A preform with a variable thickness, for obtaining, after deformation, wherein said deformation is carried out without revolving the preform around an axis, a personalized orthodontic or dentofacial orthopedic apparatus characterized by a three-dimensional hollow body which has a form that allows the preform's expansion inside a mold reproducing a morphology of a subject, wherein said perform has walls and has a shape as close as possible to a predetermined final form following deformation of the preform.--

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-28 and 32-35 and 37-41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended without prejudice. New Claim 42 has been added. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more clearly recite the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added.

As stated in the Response dated September 23, 2002, attached to this Preliminary Amendment is an unexecuted copy of the Declaration relating to the argumentation presented in the Response of September 23, 2002. The Declaration is presently being executed by the Applicant and the executed Declaration will be filed shortly.